

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMISSION OF TEXT)

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TAGS UNESCO OC, SEDU, EAID

SUBJECT: UNESCO SPONSORED CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS
OF EDUCATION, LAGOS, JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 4, 1976.

1. THE SUBJECT CONFERENCE IS AN IMPORTANT EVENT IN
SERIES OF MEETINGS WHICH UNESCO HOLDS PERIODICALLY IN
VARIOUS REGIONS TO GUIDE IT IN PLANNING FUTURE ACTIVITIES.
IT GIVES MEMBER STATES WITHIN THE REGIONS
OPPORTUNITIES TO TAKE STOCK OF CURRENT SITUATIONS AND
TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND INFORMATION. IT ALSO IS A UNIQUE
OPPORTUNITY FOR OBSERVERS FROM OUTSIDE THE REGIONS INVOLVED
TO SHOW THEIR INTEREST IN THE REGIONS AND TO
LEARN OF CURRENT TRENDS, CONCERNS AND PRIORITIES.

2. THE LAGOS CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF EDUCATION,
JANUARY 27 TO FEBRUARY 4, WILL REVIEW DEVELOPMENT
OF EDUCATION IN AFRICA SINCE LAST SUCH CONFERENCE
IN 1968 IN NAIROBI. PRESENT TRENDS IN EDUCATION IN
AFRICA WILL BE SUTIED. CONFERENCE WILL SEEK TO DEFINE
PROBLEMS CALLING FOR PRIORITY ATTENTION AND TO ESTABLISH
GUIDELINES FOR ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATIONAL
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DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL, BOTH AT THE LEVEL OF MEMBER

STATES AND IN THE FRAMEWORK OF POSSIBLE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

3. PERMDEL STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT U.S. BE REPRESENTED BY AN OBSERVER DELEGATION AT THIS MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. ALMOST HALF OF UNESCO'S FIELD OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES ARE IN AFRICA AND MOST OF THESE ARE IN EDUCATION. EDUCATION IS A HIGH PRIORITY SECTOR FOR AFRICA. USG HAD A LARGE INTEREST IN THIS AREA GIVEN ITS LONG INVOLVEMENT WITH AFRICAN EDUCATION, GIVEN THE LARGE NUMBER OF AFRICAN STUDENTS AT U.S. UNIVERSITIES, AND GIVEN THE INTEREST OF AID IN EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA.

4. PERMDEL RECOMMENDS THAT U.S. OBSERVER DELEGATION BE HEADED BY A PROMINENT BLACK EDUCATOR WHO IS KNOWLEDGEABLE OF THE AFRICAN EDUCATION SITUATION. DR WENDELL JONES, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, UCLA IS SUGGESTED. IF HE UNAVAILABLE, SUGGEST DR KENNETH B CLARK OF NEW YORK CITY OR DR SAMUEL ADAMS, RECENTLY RETIRED AID ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR AFRICA BUREAU. OTHER SUGGESTIONS ARE DR WILLIAM MARTIN OF USOE, DR WILLIAM J CARTER OF USOE, SAMUEL ALLEN- PROFESSOR AFRO-AMERICAN SECTION BOSTON U., FORMERLY LEGAL ADVISOR FOR AFRICA, USIA; MURRAY COOK, FORMER AMBASSADOR SENEGAL AND NIGER, ARTHUR P DAVIS, PROFESSOR HOWARD UNIVERSITY; PRESTON VALIEN, OFFICE OF EDUCATION, HEW.

5. IT IS ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT ONE MEMBER OF U.S. PERMDEL TO UNESCO ATTEND TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AND MOST IMPORTANTLY THE CONTINUITY OF EFFORTS. SINCE AFRICA BUREAU OF AID IS NEARING COMPLETION OF STUDY ON AID'S HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN AFRICA, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO HAVE MEMBER OF AID'S AFRICA BUREAU ATTEND AS WELL, EITHER FROM WASHINGTON STAFF OR FROM FIELD OFFICE. RUSH

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